AVENGERS

DUSTIN WEAVER J-Po

HICKMAN DEODATO MARVEL NOW! WEAVER PONSOR

009

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PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

I DON'T WANT TO JUST BE A DESTROYER OF WORLDS. I AM AN ARTIST. I BELIEVE THAT YOUR WORLD CAN BE TRANSFORMED--

"TRANSFORMED AND SAVED."

YOU ARE A STARBRAND. A WEAPON DESIGNED TO PROTECT A PEOPLE AS THEY PROGRESS THROUGH A CHANGE PERIOD, BECOMING A MORE ADVANCED SOCIETY. IT'S A DEFENSE SYSTEM OF PLANETARY SCALE.

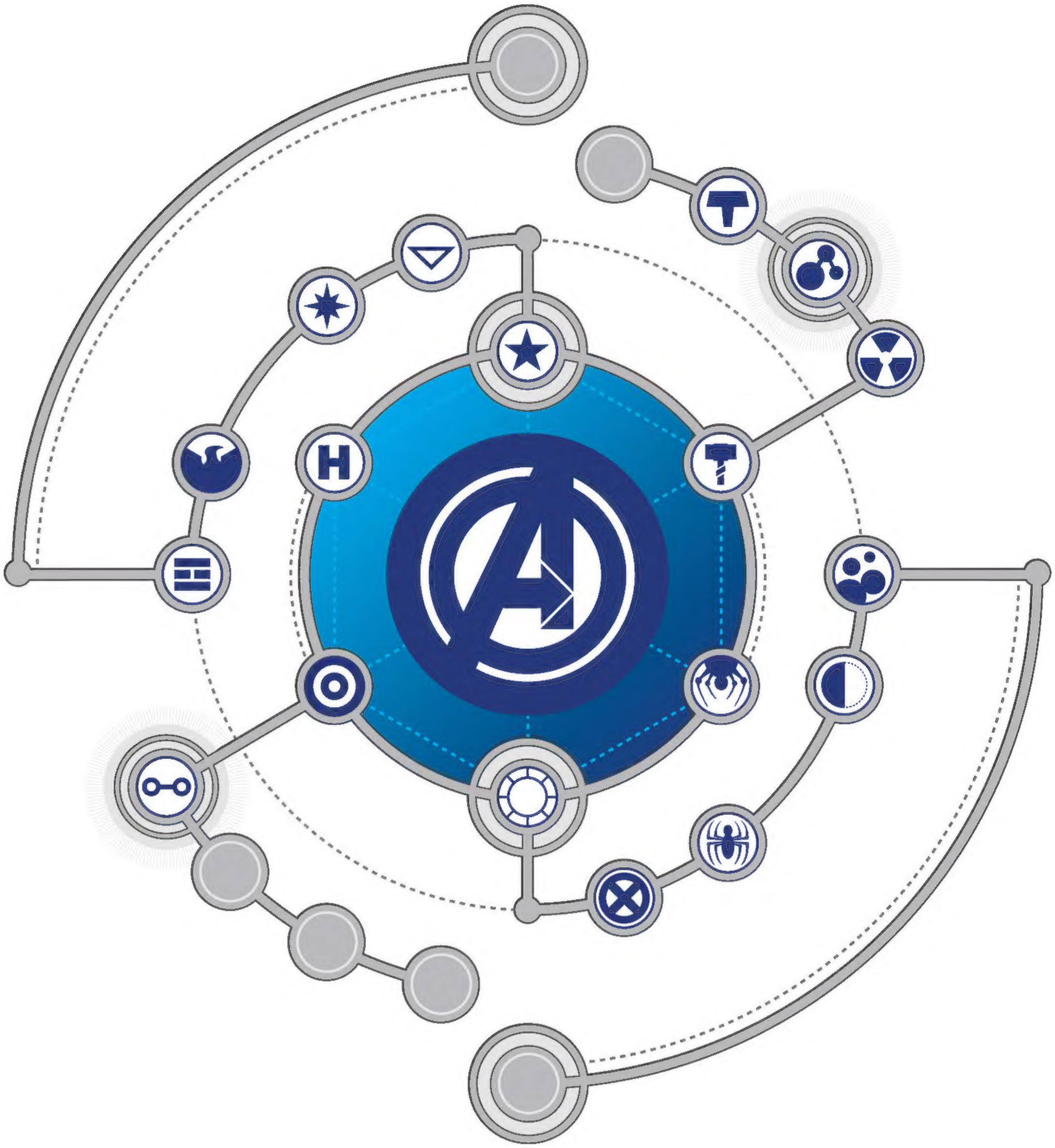
IT IS WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME.

I WAS PERFECTED. MEANT TO BE A BETTER MAN THAN ALL OF YOU OLD HUMANS...BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED.

THE WHITE EVENT.

I WAS REPURPOSED FROM AN OLDER SYSTEM TO A NEW ONE...AND NOW THOSE SYSTEMS ARE IN CONFLICT. WHICH PUTS US IN CONFLICT WITH THE ONE WHO MADE ME. MY FATHER...

"EX NIHILO."



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA · IRON MAN · THOR · HAWKEYE · BLACK WIDOW · HULK
WOLVERINE · SPIDER-MAN · CAPTAIN MARVEL · SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON · SHANG-CHI · SUNSPOT · CANNONBALL · MANIFOLD
SMASHER · CAPTAIN UNIVERSE · HYPERION

"STAR BOUND"

WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN

ARTISTS: DUSTIN WEAVER with MIKE DEODATO

COLOR ARTIST: JUSTIN PONSOR
LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT
COVER ART: DUSTIN WEAVER and JUSTIN PONSOR
VARIANT COVER ART: JOE QUINONES
ASSISTANT EDITOR: JAKE THOMAS
EDITORS: TOM BREVOORT with LAUREN SANKOVITCH
EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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MARS.

HELLO, FATHER...

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

THEY RUN AWAY ON A WHIM. INFATUATED WITH THE SHINY NEW THINGS...

AND THEN THE MOMENT SOMETHING GOES WRONG, THEY COME RUNNING BACK HOME.

DON'T LET THEM KNOW... BUT IT'S SO PREDICTABLE I'M DISAPPOINTED.

NOW, BROTHER...

DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. OFTENTIMES, THINGS AREN'T QUITE WHAT THEY SEEM.

WHICH IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE IS THE CASE HERE.

YES...NOW THAT YOU BRING IT UP, I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE.

SON...IS THERE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU?

IT HAPPENED TO THE BOTH OF US...
WE'VE CHANGED, BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? BIOLOGICALLY? CHEMICALLY? STRUCTURALLY?
HOLD STILL.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HAVING A CLOSER LOOK.
UHHH, NO. I DON'T THINK SO, LADY.
NOW GET AWAY FROM ME.
RELAX. FIGHTING ONLY MAKES THIS MORE DIFFICULT.
I SAID...
GET AWAY.
URKKKGG.
I'M SORRY...I... I...
I'M SORRY.
NASTY CREATURE...

ꝏꝏꝏꝏꝏ
ꝏꝏꝏꝏ

PLEASE... WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING.

START WITH ME.

DO AS HE ASKS, ABYSS.

HRMPT.

YOU'RE HIGHLY SENSITIVE, ADAM. THIS MIGHT FEEL A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE FOR YOU.

TRY NOT TO MOVE.

GENETICALLY PERFECT HUMAN. MODIFIED...

SECONDARY BUILDER SYSTEM. INCOMPLETE DOWNLOAD, BUT...

UUHHHHH!

BUT THE CONFLICT...

IS NOT WITH YOU.

IT'S EARTH.

EX NIHILO... IT WAS YOU.

I WAS BORED.

SO I DID SOMETHING NEW.

"ON OTHER WORLDS, WE *GARDENERS* HAVE ALWAYS JUDGED LIFE.

"IF IT WAS FLAWED, WE TERMINATED IT. IF IT HAD POTENTIAL, WE ENCOURAGED EVOLUTION.

"THIS TIME... I CHANGED THE RULES."

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, BROTHER?

I TWEAKED THE MIX. I PLAYED GODDESS.

THE BOMBS I SENT WERE NOT JUST TO CHANGE THE PEOPLE, BUT THE WORLD ITSELF.

I'M ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THE EARTH *SENTIENT.*

YOU DID *WHAT?*

EACH BOMB CARRIED A SPECIFIC CHARGE.

A TRAIT THAT ALL EVOLVING SPECIES POSSESS.

SPLIT, CROATIA.

"SELF-AWARENESS.

THE FALLEN HEIGHTS, THE SAVAGE LAND.

"SELF-SUSTENANCE.

CHHATARPU, INDIA.

"SELF-REPAIR.

KOBE, JAPAN.

"REPRODUCTION.

PERTH, AUSTRALIA.

"COMMUNICATION.

REGINA, CANADA.

"EVOLUTION.

A.I.M. ISLAND.

"SELF-DEFENSE."

WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN ALL THE SITES BEGIN THEIR CHANGE STATE...

BUT I GUARANTEE IT WILL BE DIFFERENT.

CAN YOU STOP IT?

YOU CAN'T STOP *LIFE* WITHOUT ENDING IT.

AND EVEN IF WE COULD DO SOMETHING...WE ARE NOT PERMITTED TO GO TO EARTH. REMEMBER?

WE HAVE OUR GARDEN, AND THAT'S IT.

SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?

BEHAVE, AND YOU AND ***ADAM*** CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

OR YOU COULD GO BACK...

SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

IT MIGHT JUST BE SOMETHING TO SEE.

AVENGERS TOWER.

TRACKING PLACES NIGHTMASK AND STARBRAND AT THE GARDEN SITE ON MARS, CAP.

NO IDEA IF THAT MEANS THE GARDEN MEMBERS MIGHT GET INVOLVED. MAYBE THEY JUST WENT HOME?

MAYBE WE JUST LET THEM BE?

WE'VE GOT AN OBLITERATED COLLEGE AND A ROGUE DYNAMO RESPONSIBLE FOR IT...

THERE'S NO LETTING THIS LIE.

GET READY TO JUMP US TO MARS, EDEN.

MIGHT WANT TO HOLD OFF ON THAT, STEVE.

SIGNAL JUST DISAPPEARED FROM MARS AND POPPED UP LOCAL.

EARTH'S ATMO.

WHERE?

QUARANTINED ZONE.

CROATIA.

CROATIA.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE BEACH BEFORE.

THIS IS NICE.

IT'S USUALLY BETTER.

HMM.

HEY, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK.

IF THEY GREW YOU IN A SACK, HOW OLD DOES THAT MEAN YOU ARE?

47 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE I WAS BORN.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT THAT.

HOW ARE YO--

DO YOU HEAR THAT NOISE?

NNNNNZZZZZZZ

LIKE A BUZZING.

BUT ALMOST WORDS...

LOOK. THIS ONE IS MOVING.

NNNNNZZZZZZZ

WHOA!

IT'S HAPPENING TO THE OTHERS AS WELL.

pop

pop

ΨΘΩΘ

ΨΘΩΘ

FASCINATING.

ΨΘΩΘ

ΨΘΩΘ

ΨΘΩΘ

ΨΘΩΘ

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

IT'S WORM SEX, ISN'T IT?

NO. THIS IS CONSCIOUSNESS. INDIVIDUALLY, EACH ONE IS A SIMPLE ORGANISM THAT CAN SIGNAL A SINGLE ORDER. SEEMINGLY RANDOM COMMANDS.

BUT TOGETHER THEY WILL *FORM* A COMPLEX STRUCTURE... A SENTIENT OVERMIND, CREATING A SENTIENT WORLD.

MY FATHER IS A MADMAN, BUT HE WAS RIGHT...

THIS TRULY IS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD.

AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T BE THE ONLY ONES TO SEE IT.

THERE. BELOW US.

WHAT IS THAT?

YES, I CAN HEAR YOU.

YOUR CODE... YOU ARE A SYSTEM?

AAHHH!

LET GO!

NO! I'VE GOT YOU.

I WON'T LET...

UGH!

LET GO!

MRRFFF!

LET GO!

NO.
NO. NO.
NO.

WHAT DID I DO?

THAT WAS THE LIVING CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE PLANET...

YOU...WE...JUST KILLED THE EARTH, STARBRAND.

WE *BROKE* THE *WORLD.*

"WE WILL BE JUDGED."

YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL, KEVIN.

THIS HAS TO STOP.

IT HAS TO END. *NOW.*

I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT...IT WAS HURTING ADAM, AND I JUST LASHED OUT AND...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO.

THIS IS ALL TOO NEW--HE WASN'T PREPARED FOR THIS, BUT HE CAN LEARN. HE CAN GROW.

ALL HE NEEDS IS TIME.

WELL, WE'RE FRESH OUT OF THAT... AND YOU'RE IN THIS NECK DEEP AS WELL, NIGHTMASK.

MOTHER. IS THERE NOTHING YOU CAN DO?

I TOLD YOU TO DO WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU MUST--AND I TOLD YOU IF YOU DID HOW THIS WOULD END...

WITH YOU IN A BOX.

THAT'S NOT...

NO.

NO, INDEED.

WE ARE LEAVING HERE, NOW. DON'T TRY TO STOP US--*DON'T*, OR YOU'LL REGRET IT.

I ALREADY DO, ADAM. I'M SORRY IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY.

AVENGERS--TAKE THEM *DOWN!*

IT WAS THE SPARK THAT STARTED THE FIRE--A LEGEND THAT GREW IN THE TELLING.

IT HAPPENED AFTER THE LIGHT.

BEFORE THE WAR.

AND BEFORE THE FALL.

THEY WERE THE HIGH DAYS OF THE GREAT IDEA-- AN *AVENGERS WORLD.*

A TIME OF LIFE, BEFORE A SEASON OF DEATH.

THEY WERE TITANS AND GODS AND MORTALS DOING IMMORTAL ACTS...

THEY HAD BEEN SUMMONED, AND DID NOT PAUSE TO ANSWER.

THEY WERE PERFECT...THEY WERE *HEROES.*

AND WE...WE WERE BROKEN.

NOT CALLED...

BUT MADE.

ERRORS IN THE SYSTEM. ANOMALIES.

PLANET KILLERS AND WORLD BREAKERS.

FINAL OPTIONS.

LAST RESORTS.

THINGS IT WAS NOT TIME FOR...

YET.

STOP.

PLEASE STOP.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THIS...

ANY OF IT.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T, SON.

BUT THEY STILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES.

I WAS HOLDING BACK.

I NEVER ASKED FOR THIS POWER.

I DON'T WANT IT.

WE KNOW.

YOU THINK THAT DOESN'T TERRIFY US?

WE KNOW, KEVIN...

"MAYBE THAT FACT GIVES US HOPE.

"WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO HELP YOU--WE WILL HELP YOU, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

"BUT FOR NOW...

"WE'RE ALL OUT OF OPTIONS.

"YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO RUN FREE.

"BECAUSE WE HAVE THE WORLD TO THINK ABOUT.

"AND TODAY, IT'S SAFER WITH YOU NOT IN IT."

BUILDER MACHINE CODE

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

So how do you follow up on the most successful super hero movie ever put to film? Well, if you're the talented crew at Marvel Studios, the answer is **IRON MAN 3**, causing a stir in your local film emporium starting May 3, 2013! We're sure you've all seen the action-packed trailer for the film by now—but, if not, point your electronic device at the poster image on this page and activate the Marvel AR App, and excitement shall be yours! If you don't have a whatchamacallit electronic device, we're afraid you'll just have hold out for a few more weeks! But trust us—it'll be worth it!

Beyond our usual releases, there's a pair of projects this month that AVENGERS fans may want to pay special attention to. Proving he's more than just a pretty face at the end of a blockbuster movie, Jason Aaron and Simone Bianchi reveal the full story of the life of Thanos the Mad Titan in **THANOS RISING**! And for those who miss writer Brian Bendis around these parts—and who doesn't?—the ongoing saga of **AGE OF ULTRON** continues this month with three additional issues—Issue #6 in particular should prove a special treat for long-time AVENGERS fans!

Hey, it's mailbag time!

Have you ever thought about having a poll to see which is the best current AVENGERS title? If so, UNCANNY AVENGERS has my vote. Coming from somebody who has been collecting comics and Avengers since they had a twelve cent cover price, I think it's better than AVENGERS, NEW AVENGERS, AVENGERS ASSEMBLE, SECRET AVENGERS, HONEY, I SHRUNK THE AVENGERS, etc. Hypothetically if I only could get one AVENGERS title a month it would be UNCANNY AVENGERS. Hypothetically if I only could get one Marvel title a month it would be HAWKEYE, but I'd be pretty ticked off at these hypothetical people/reasons limiting my Marvel purchases to just one book a month and I'd raise enough hell that the hypothetical people/reasons would let me get two Marvel titles to placate me. And the second title would be UNCANNY AVENGERS. If I could go back in time and rename my daughter, I'd rename her UNCANNY AVENGERS. (HAWKEYE is a silly name for a little girl anyway.)

If you can't tell, I'm really liking the book.

Make Mine Marvel.
Rob Shelor
Roanoke, VA

Ask and ye shall receive, Rob! So a poll it is! We're calling on all of our faithful Marvel readers to drop us a line at the e-mail address below and let us know which AVENGERS title is your favorite! And as long as we're asking, how about telling us your favorite current AVENGERS family writer, penciler, inker, letterer and colorist as well? Results to be tabulated and printed in an upcoming ASSEMBLY page!

And because we're always a sucker for letters like this one:

Dear Marvel,
A lot of people have their own opinions of a "hero", and this is mine...my fiancé Paul! He's my hero!

A year ago he was in a terrible car crash, which left him paralyzed from his waist down. This means his only way of getting around is in a wheelchair. Before the accident he was very active and always on his feet.

For as long as I have known Paul, he's been a huge fan of Marvel! I never knew anyone could have such an obsession with anything.

I was oblivious to super heroes before the accident, a bit like Penny and Leonard's relationship from "The Big Bang Theory." Paul can't do anything active and is always bored. Then about 6 months ago when I came in from work he had gotten his brother to get all his old comics out. That day was the most I had seen him smile in a long time.

We also have 2 children together, they are both super hero daft too! Obviously due to Paul's accident he can't enjoy normal father and son activities, but he loves to read them both comics.

Thanks to Marvel, we have a bond like never before, as I'm now a huge fan too and we can enjoy things together. Thanks to Marvel. I now see a smile on my fiancé's face every day. He's always looking forward to what's new!

Thank you so much for your time and brilliant storylines over the years!

Most of all, thank you for giving Paul motivation to get through the days!

Yours Faithfully,
Chelsey Wright

NEXT ISSUE:

OH NO, CANADA!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #9
THE POWER OF STARBRAND IS UNLEASHED!

AVENGERS #10
IT'S A MISSION INTO CANADA TO RESCUE OMEGA FLIGHT!

AVENGERS ARENA #7
HOW DID ARCADE BECOME ALL-POWERFUL? THE ANSWER IS HERE!

AVENGERS ARENA #8
THE SECRETS OF X-23 AND DARKHAWK COME TO LIGHT!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #14AU
AN AGE OF ULTRON TIE-IN! THE BLACK WIDOW FACES THE END OF THE WORLD ON THE WEST COAST!

DARK AVENGERS #189
THE PENULTIMATE CHAPTER OF THE VILLAINS-TURNED-HEROES SAGA!

NEW AVENGERS #5
WHAT IS THE SECRET OF THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK SWAN?

SECRET AVENGERS #3
INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT IRON PATRIOT! BELIEVE US, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #7
RAGNAROK NOW! KICKS OFF WITH THE DEATH OF A CELESTIAL AND THE SUCCESSOR TO APOCALYPSE!

YOUNG AVENGERS #4
HAWKEYE AND MARVEL BOY MAKE THE SCENE!

A + X #7
IRON MAN AND THE BEAST! ALSO, THOR TEAMS UP WITH ICEMAN!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #12

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ZONE